

WOLFRAM RESEARCH

mathworld.wolfram.com

Search Site

mathworld

INDEX

[Algebra](#)
[Applied Mathematics](#)
[Calculus and Analysis](#)
[Discrete Mathematics](#)
[Foundations of Mathematics](#)
[Geometry](#)
[History and Terminology](#)
[Number Theory](#)
[Probability and Statistics](#)
[Recreational Mathematics](#)
[Topology](#)
[Alphabetical Index](#)

ABOUT THIS SITE

[About MathWorld](#)
[About the Author](#)
[Terms of Use](#)

DESTINATIONS

[What's New](#)
[Headline News \(RSS\)](#)
[Random Entry](#)
[Animations](#)
[Live 3D Graphics](#)

CONTACT

[Email Comments](#)
[Contribute!](#)
[Sign the Guestbook](#)

MATHWORLD - IN PRINT

[Order book from Amazon](#)

Algebra » Cyclotomy »

Discrete Mathematics » Recurrence Equations »

Recreational Mathematics » Interactive Entries » Animated GIFs »

Cyclotomic Polynomial

A polynomial given by

$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (x - \zeta_k),$$

where ζ_k are the roots of unity in \mathbb{C} given by

$$\zeta_k = e^{2\pi i k/n}$$

and k runs over integers relatively prime to n . The prime may be dropped if the instead taken over primitive roots of unity, so that

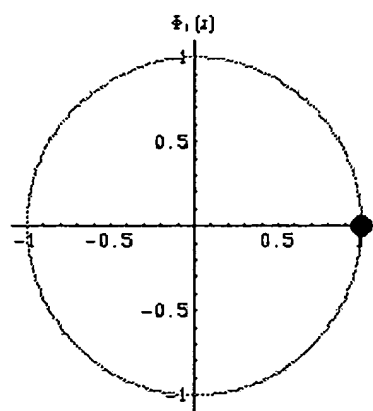
$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{\substack{k=1 \\ \text{primitive } \zeta_k}}^n (x - \zeta_k).$$

The notation $F_n(x)$ is also frequently encountered. Dickson *et al.* (1923) and (1975) give extensive bibliographies for cyclotomic polynomials.

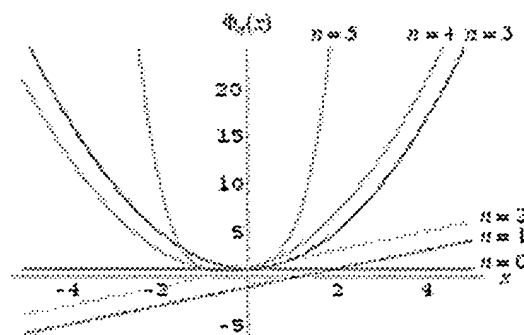
The cyclotomic polynomial for $n > 1$ can also be defined as

$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{d|n} (1 - x^{n/d})^{\mu(d)}$$

where $\mu(d)$ is the Möbius function and the product is taken over the divisors d (1991, p. 225).



$\Phi_n(x)$ is an integer polynomial and an irreducible polynomial with polynomial $\phi(n)$, where $\phi(n)$ is the totient function. Cyclotomic polynomials are returned *Mathematica* command `Cyclotomic[n, x]`. The roots of cyclotomic polynomials lie on the unit circle in the complex plane, as illustrated above for the first few cyclotomic polynomials.



The first few cyclotomic polynomials are

$$\Phi_1(x) = x - 1$$

$$\Phi_2(x) = x + 1$$

$$\Phi_3(x) = x^2 + x + 1$$

$$\Phi_4(x) = x^2 + 1$$

$$\Phi_5(x) = x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

$$\Phi_6(x) = x^2 - x + 1$$

$$\Phi_7(x) = x^6 + x^5 + x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

$$\Phi_8(x) = x^4 + 1$$

$$\Phi_9(x) = x^6 + x^3 + 1$$

$$\Phi_{10}(x) = x^4 - x^3 + x^2 - x + 1.$$

If p is an odd prime, then

$$\Phi_p(x) = \frac{x^p - 1}{x - 1} = x^{p-1} + x^{p-2} + \dots + x + 1$$

$$\Phi_{2p}(x) = \frac{x^{2p} - 1}{x^p - 1} \frac{x - 1}{x^2 - 1} = x^{p-1} - x^{p-2} + \dots - x + 1$$

$$\Phi_{4p}(x) = \frac{x^{4p} - 1}{x^{2p} - 1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^4 - 1} = x^{2p-2} - x^{2p-4} + \dots - x^2 + 1$$

(Riesel 1994, p. 306). Similarly, for p again an odd prime,

$$x^p - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_p(x)$$

$$x^{2p} - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)\Phi_p(x)\Phi_{2p}(x)$$

$$x^{4p} - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)\Phi_4(x)\Phi_p(x)\Phi_{2p}(x)\Phi_{4p}(x).$$

For the first few remaining values of n ,

$$x - 1 = \Phi_1(x)$$

$$x^2 - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)$$

$$x^4 - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)\Phi_4(x)$$

$$x^8 - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)\Phi_4(x)\Phi_8(x)$$

$$x^9 - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_3(x)\Phi_9(x)$$

$$x^{15} - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_3(x)\Phi_5(x)\Phi_{15}(x)$$

$$x^{16} - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)\Phi_4(x)\Phi_8(x)\Phi_{16}(x)$$

$$x^{18} - 1 = \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)\Phi_3(x)\Phi_6(x)\Phi_9(x)\Phi_{18}(x)$$

(Riesel 1994, p. 307).

For p a prime relatively prime to n ,

$$F_{np}(x) = \frac{F_n(x^p)}{F_n(x)},$$

but if $p \nmid n$,

$$F_{np}(x) = F_n(x^p)$$

(Nagell 1951, p. 160).

An explicit equation for $\Phi_n(x)$ for squarefree n is given by

$$\Phi_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\phi(n)} a_{nj} x^{\phi(n)-j},$$

where a_{nj} is calculated using the recurrence relation

$$a_{nj} = -\frac{\mu(n)}{j} \sum_{m=0}^{j-1} a_{nm} \mu(\text{GCD}(n, j-m)) \phi(\text{GCD}(n, j-m)),$$

with $a_{n0} = 1$, where $\mu(n)$ is the Möbius function and $\text{GCD}(m, n)$ is the greatest common denominator of m and n .

The polynomial $x^n - 1$ can be factored as

$$x^n - 1 = \prod_{d|n} \Phi_d(x),$$

where $\Phi_d(x)$ is a cyclotomic polynomial. Furthermore,

$$x^n + 1 = \frac{x^{2n} - 1}{x^n - 1} = \frac{\prod_{d|2n} \Phi_d(x)}{\prod_{d|n} \Phi_d(x)}.$$

The coefficients of the inverse of the cyclotomic polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1+x+x^2} &= 1 - x + x^3 - x^4 + x^6 - x^7 + x^9 - x^{10} + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n \end{aligned}$$

can also be computed from

$$\begin{aligned} c_n &= 1 - 2 \left\lfloor \frac{1}{3}(n+2) \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{1}{3}(n+1) \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{1}{3}n \right\rfloor \\ &= 1 - 3 \left\lfloor \frac{1}{3}(n+2) \right\rfloor + \lfloor n \rfloor \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \sin\left[\frac{2}{3}\pi(n+1)\right], \end{aligned}$$

where $\lfloor x \rfloor$ is the floor function.

For p prime,

$$\Phi_p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} x^k,$$

i.e., the coefficients are all 1. The first cyclotomic polynomial to have a coefficient other than ± 1 and 0 is $\Phi_{105}(x)$, which has coefficients of -2 for x^7 and x^{84} . This is because 105 is the first number to have three distinct odd prime factors, i.e., $105 = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$ (McClellan and Rader 1979, Schroeder 1997). The smallest values of n for which $\Phi_n(x)$ has one or more coefficients $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \dots$ are 0, 105, 385, 12805, 3135, 6545, 6545, 10465, 10465, 10465, 10465, 10465, 11305, ... (Sloane A013594).

It appears to be true that, for $m, n > 1$, if $\Phi_m(x) + \Phi_n(x)$ factors, then the factors contain a cyclotomic polynomial. For example,

$$\Phi_7(x) + \Phi_{12}(x) = (x^2 + 1)(x^8 - x^7 + 2x^4 + 2) = \Phi_4(x)(x^8 - x^7 + 2x^4 + 2)$$

This observation has been checked up to $m, n = 150$ (C. Nicol). If m and n are coprime, then $\Phi_m + \Phi_n$ is irreducible.

Migotti (1883) showed that coefficients of $\Phi_{pq}(x)$ for p and q distinct primes are $0, \pm 1$. Lam and Leung (1996) considered

$$\Phi_{pq}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{pq-1} a_k x^k$$

for p, q prime. Write the totient function as

$$\phi(pq) = (p-1)(q-1) = rp + sq$$

and let

$$0 \leq k \leq (p-1)(q-1),$$

then

1. $a_k = 1$ iff $k = ip + jq$ for some $i \in [0, r]$ and $j \in [0, s]$,
2. $a_k = -1$ iff $k + pq = ip + jq$ for $i \in [r+1, p-1]$ and $j \in [s+1, p+q-1]$,
3. otherwise $a_k = 0$.

The number of terms having $a_k = 1$ is $(r+1)(s+1)$, and the number of terms having $a_k = -1$ is $(p-s-1)(q-r-1)$. Furthermore, assume $q > p$, then the number of terms having $a_k = 1$ is

coefficient of Φ_{mq} is $(-1)^r$.

Resultants of cyclotomic polynomials have been computed by Lehmer (1930), L (1940), and Apostol (1970). It is known that $\rho(\Phi_k(x), \Phi_n(x)) = 1$ if (m, n)

m and n are relatively prime (Apostol 1975). Apostol (1975) showed that for po integers m and n and arbitrary nonzero complex numbers a and b ,

$$\rho(\Phi_m(ax), \Phi_n(bx)) = b^{\phi(m)\phi(n)} \prod_{d|n} \left[\Phi_{m/d} \left(\frac{a^d}{b^d} \right) \right]^{\mu(n/d)\phi(m)/\phi(m/d)},$$

where $\delta = \text{GCD}(m, d)$ is the greatest common divisor of m and d , $\phi(n)$ is the Euler totient function, $\mu(n)$ is the Möbius function, and the product is over the divisors of n where p and q are distinct primes, then (44) simplifies to

$$\rho(\Phi_q(ax), \Phi_p(bx)) = \begin{cases} \frac{a^{p^2} - b^{p^2}}{a^p - b^p} \frac{a - b}{a^q - b^q} & \text{for } a \neq b \\ a^{(p-1)(q-1)} & \text{for } a = b. \end{cases}$$

The following table gives the resultants $\rho(\Phi_k(x), \Phi_n(x))$ (Sloane's A054372).

$k \backslash n$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0						
2	2	0					
3	3	1	0				
4	2	2	1	0			
5	5	1	1	1	0		
6	1	3	4	1	1	0	
7	7	1	1	1	1	1	0

The numbers of 1s in successive rows of this table are given by 0, 0, 1, 1, 3, 3, 9, ... (Sloane's A075795).

The cyclotomic polynomial $\Phi_6(x)$ has the particularly nice Maclaurin series

$$\frac{1}{\Phi_6(x)} = 1 + x - x^3 - x^4 + x^6 + x^7 - x^9 - x^{10} + \dots,$$

whose coefficients 1, 0, -1, -1, 0, 1, 1, 0, -1, -1, ... (Sloane's A010892) are given by solving the recurrence equation

$$a(n) = a(n-1) - a(n-2)$$

with $a(0) = a(1) = 1$ (Wolfram 2002, p. 128), giving the explicit form

$$a(n) = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3} \sin\left[\frac{1}{3}(n+1)\pi\right].$$

Interestingly, any sequence $b(n)$ satisfying the linear recurrence equation

$$b(n) = b(n-1) - b(n-2)$$

can be written as

$$b(n) = b(0)a(n) + \{b(1) - b(0)\}a(n-1).$$

SEE ALSO: Aurifeuillean Factorization, Gauss's Cyclotomic Formula, Lucas's Theorem, Inversion Formula, Primitive Root of Unity, Root of Unity

RELATED WOLFRAM SITES: <http://functions.wolfram.com/Polynomials/CyclotomicPolynomial>

PAGES LINKING HERE: [search](#)

REFERENCES:

Apostol, T. M. "Resultants of Cyclotomic Polynomials." *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **24**, 457-462, 1970.

Apostol, T. M. "The Resultant of the Cyclotomic Polynomials $F_m(ax)$ and $F_n(bx)$." *Math. Mag.* **48**, 1-6, 1975.

Beiter, M. "The Midterm Coefficient of the Cyclotomic Polynomial $F_{pq}(x)$." *Amer. Math. Monthly* **71**, 770, 1964.

Beiter, M. "Magnitude of the Coefficients of the Cyclotomic Polynomial F_{pq} ." *Amer. Math. Monthly* **75**, 372, 1968.

Bloom, D. M. "On the Coefficients of the Cyclotomic Polynomials." *Amer. Math. Monthly* **75**, 372, 1968.

Brent, R. P. "On Computing Factors of Cyclotomic Polynomials." *Math. Comput.* **61**, 131-149, 1993.

Carlitz, L. "The Number of Terms in the Cyclotomic Polynomial $F_{pq}(x)$." *Amer. Math. Monthly* **73**, 981, 1966.

Conway, J. H. and Guy, R. K. *The Book of Numbers*. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1996.

de Bruijn, N. G. "On the Factorization of Cyclic Groups." *Indag. Math.* **15**, 370-377, 1953.

Dickson, L. E.; Mitchell, H. H.; Vandiver, H. S.; and Wahlin, G. E. *Algebraic Numbers*. Bull. Nat. Acad. Sci., Vol. 5, Part 3, No. 28. Washington, DC: National Acad. Sci., 1923.

Diederichsen, F.-E. "Über die Ausreduktion ganzzahliger Gruppendarstellungen bei arithmetischer Äquivalenz." *Abh. Math. Sem. Hanisches Univ.* **13**, 357-412, 1940.

Lam, T. Y. and Leung, K. H. "On the Cyclotomic Polynomial $\Phi_{pq}(X)$." *Amer. Math. Monthly* **100**, 100, 1993.

1996.

Lehmer, E. "On the Magnitude of the Coefficients of the Cyclotomic Polynomial." *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 389-392, 1936.

Lehmer, E. "On the Magnitude of Coefficients of the Cyclotomic Polynomials." *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 389-392, 1936.

McClellan, J. H. and Rader, C. *Number Theory in Digital Signal Processing*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Hall, 1979.

Migotti, A. "Zur Theorie der Kreisteilungsgleichung." *Sitzber. Math.-Naturwiss. Classe der Kaiserl. Acad. Wiss., Wien* **87**, 7-14, 1883.

Nagell, T. "The Cyclotomic Polynomials" and "The Prime Divisors of the Cyclotomic Polynomial." in *Introduction to Number Theory*. New York: Wiley, pp. 158-160 and 164-168, 1951.

Riesel, H. "The Cyclotomic Polynomials" in Appendix 6. *Prime Numbers and Computer Methods. Factorization*, 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Birkhäuser, pp. 305-308, 1994.

Schroeder, M. R. *Number Theory in Science and Communication, with Applications in Cryptography, Digital Information, Computing, and Self-Similarity*, 3rd ed. New York: Springer-Verlag, p. 245,

Sérour, R. "Cyclotomic Polynomials." §10.8 in *Programming for Mathematicians*. Berlin: Springer, pp. 265-269, 2000.

Sloane, N. J. A. Sequences A013594, A010892, A054372, and A075795 in "The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences." <http://www.research.att.com/~njas/sequences/>.

Trott, M. "The Mathematica Guidebooks Additional Material: Graphics of the Argument of Cyclotomic Polynomials." http://www.mathematicaguidebooks.org/additions.shtml#N_2_03.




Vardi, I. *Computational Recreations in Mathematics*. Redwood City, CA: Addison-Wesley, pp. 8-11, 1991.

Wolfram, S. *A New Kind of Science*. Champaign, IL: Wolfram Media, 2002.

CITE THIS AS:

Eric W. Weisstein. "Cyclotomic Polynomial." From *MathWorld*--A Wolfram Web Resource. <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/CyclotomicPolynomial.html>

Related Wolfram Research Products include:

 *Mathematica*  *Mathematica CalcCenter*  *The Mathematical Explorer*

© 1999 CRC Press LLC, © 1999-2005 Wolfram Research, Inc.